

CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, what is CLAIMED is:

1. A head assembly for a cutting machine, comprising:

5 a head having mounting means for movement of said head assembly on an axis, said head defining a first channel oriented at an oblique angle to said axis;

10 a slide mounted for slidable movement in said channel of said head between a withdrawn blade position and a plunged blade position, said slide having a second channel therein extending substantially parallel to said first channel for receiving a blade-holding magazine inserted therein, said slide and head having first cooperating mechanical means thereon for adjustably limiting the movement of said slide to said plunged blade position; and

15 a blade-holding magazine dimensioned and configured for slidable insertion into said second channel in said slide, said slide and magazine having second cooperating mechanical means thereon for adjustably limiting the depth of magazine insertion into said second channel.

20 2. The assembly of Claim 1 wherein said assembly includes a linear motion support system for said slide, said support system comprising, on each of two opposite sides of said slide, an array of at least three elongate rectilinear elements mutually spaced to define a passage therewithin, and a multiplicity of bearing elements loosely stacked in columnar relationship within said defined passage.

25 3. The assembly of Claim 1 wherein said slide has a boss defining a threaded aperture that opens to said second channel, and wherein said assembly additionally includes a tightening screw received within said aperture of said boss for clampingly engaging a cutting blade received in said magazine.

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